

MARGARET CUSTER CALHOUN.

JANUARY 28, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. LOUDENSLAGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 2954.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2954) granting an increase of pension to Margaret Custer Calhoun, have considered the same, and respectfully report as follows:

Said bill is accompanied by Senate Report No. 813, this term, and the same, fully setting forth the facts, is adopted by your committee as their report, and the bill is returned with a favorable recommendation.

[Senate Report No. 813, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2954) granting a pension to Margaret Custer Calhoun, have examined the same, and report:

The military record of Lieut. James Calhoun is as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, April 27, 1896.

Statement of the military service of James Calhoun, late of the United States Army, compiled from the records of this office.

He served as private and sergeant of Company D, Twenty-third Infantry, from February 22, 1865, to October 24, 1867, when he was discharged, having been appointed second lieutenant Thirty-second Infantry July 31, 1867; transferred to Twenty-first Infantry, April 19, 1869; unassigned, October 29, 1870; assigned to Seventh Cavalry, January 1, 1871; first lieutenant, January 9, 1871; killed in action, June 25, 1876.

SERVICE.

He joined the Thirty-second Infantry in December, 1868, and served therewith at Camp Grant and in the field, Arizona, to July, 1869, and with the Twenty-first Infantry in Arizona to February, 1870; on leave of absence to October, 1870; awaiting orders to January, 1871; en route to regiment with recruits to February, 1871; on duty with Seventh Cavalry in Kentucky to July, 1871; attending a court of inquiry in his case in Arizona to November, 1871; en route to and with his regiment in Kentucky to July, 1872; in North Carolina to March, 1873; en route to and with the Yellowstone expedition to September, 1873; at Fort A. Lincoln, Dak. (on Black Hills expedition from June to September, 1874, and at Fort Seward, Dak., from March 23 to April 17, 1876), to May 17, 1876, and on Sioux expedition until June 25, 1876, upon which date he was killed in action with Sioux Indians on Little Big Horn River, Montana.

W. P. HALL, Assistant Adjutant-General.

The claimant under this bill is the widow of Lieutenant Calhoun and the sister of the late General Custer. Lieutenant Calhoun had an honorable military record, covering a period of nine years, at the end of which he was massacred by the Indians at the battle of Little Big Horn. Not only did the claimant lose her distinguished brother, General Custer, and her husband, Lieutenant Calhoun, in that terrible slaughter, but she also lost three brothers and a nephew. She has only one brother left, and he is a confirmed invalid.

Mrs. Calhoun is supporting herself by manual labor, bravely struggling to obtain a living under conditions imposed upon her in consequence of the loss of husband, three brothers, and one nephew in one of the most terrible massacres that history records.

The bill under consideration proposes to increase claimant's pension from \$17 to \$30 per month. Your committee are unanimously of opinion that this is a case in every way meritorious, and therefore report the bill favorably, with a recommendation that it be promptly passed.